



22 April 2011

### Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) Surveys

1. The Defense Travel Management Office (DTMO) is conducting a Living Pattern Survey (LPS) from 28 March to 15 May 2011. In June 2011, immediately following the LPS, trained USFK Pricing Teams will complete a Retail Price Schedule (RPS). Information you provided during the survey will be used to determine COLA rates here in Korea.
2. The LPS collects data from all Service members to determine where you shop for goods and services. The LPS is web-based and can be accessed by all service members on the [175<sup>th</sup> FMC homepage](http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/oscola/lps/korea), or at the DTMO website: <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/oscola/lps/korea>.
3. In June 2011, following the LPS, trained USFK Pricing Teams will complete a RPS by collecting price data for 120 goods and services from the vendors identified by you during the LPS.
  - a. The USFK Pricing Teams are traveling to Seoul, Pyongtaek, Daegu, Chinhae, Uijeongbu, Wonju, Dongducheon, and Osan as part of the 2011 Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) Survey.
  - b. The 175<sup>th</sup> Financial Management Center and the USFK finance element will consolidate the information and verify its accuracy before submitting to the DTMO for analysis. The DTMO will then compare our prices against similar goods and services in the Continental United States.
  - c. **The results will generate COLA rates for Service members stationed here in Korea.**
4. COLA is a valuable benefit for Service members stationed overseas. The time you spend answering the survey questions is essential to DTMO setting equitable COLA rates while ensuring Service members receive this much needed allowance. I'm asking our leaders to emphasize the importance of this survey throughout your organizations—this is your chance to directly influence COLA. I applaud your efforts to ensure that our COLA data will accurately reflect today's overseas living environment.

*Walter L. Sharp*  
WALTER L. SHARP  
General, US Army  
Commander

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